

I was on the Groton Zoning commission for 8 1/2 years, ending last summer. I spent a lot of time and energy on adding the wording of SS Chapter 124, section 8.2-b to Groton's zoning regulations, which was accepted unanimously by the Commission (over the objections of the previous Director of Planning Services. The main reason for my persistence was to ensure the growing shellfish industry's safety and to support the local businesses such as marinas and waterside dining places...a \$9 billion industry in Connecticut.

From many conversations with various local (SECT) shellfish commissioners and water conservation groups such as CUSH and Save the Bay, I am aware of the difficulty faced by volunteers who gather water samples and carry them to testing sites at a distance. A reliable local facility testing both water from shell-fishing areas and the shellfish themselves would make the dedicated volunteers work much easier, and less expensive. The groups do band together to deliver their samples to Milford and Rocky Hill.

On HB5722, how will you "police" the origin of 2 1/2 inch oysters? Will it be another unfunded mandate? Will it be added to the duties of a state commission that is already underfunded and over burdened? I feel it would be better to avoid the situation, and not set a separate standard that would need monitoring.

Thank you,

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